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24 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant, OMR

THROUGH : Chief, Geographic Research Area

THROUGH : Chief, Geography Division

FROM : Chief, USSR Branch

SUBJECT : Proposed Exchange of Geographers with the Soviet Union

REFERENCE : Memorandum of Conversation with [REDACTED] 25X1C
25X1C [REDACTED] 13 May 1963

25X1C

There is no objection to the proposal provided that the exchange is actually developed as outlined in the referenced memorandum. Of utmost importance will be the selection of properly-qualified delegates and the negotiation of the itinerary. [REDACTED] 25X1C
25X1C [REDACTED] on the exchange is not possible until an official proposal is received from the Soviet Government.

- 25X1A 1. Selection of Delegation -- Persons with the qualifications mentioned by [REDACTED] (i.e., Russian-speaking specialists on the geography of the USSR, preferably with some previous travel experience in the USSR) should be able to profit considerably more than did the members of the last delegation from the rapidly-moving type of group travel that the proposed itinerary would necessitate. However, if a group of properly-qualified individuals cannot be assembled, and if persons without USSR specialization make the trip, the type of trip proposed would be of dubious value. If, for example, the delegation included topical specialists with no specific interest in the USSR, such as specialists in agricultural geography, industrial geography, or geography of arid lands, then a different organization of the trip would be desirable -- with the delegation split into

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teams of one or two persons who could concentrate on visiting the areas and institutions appropriate to their specialty.

2. Negotiation of Itinerary -- The itinerary that Professor Gerasimov proposes is relatively generous and would be a suitable itinerary if it can be officially negotiated. However, if the visit to the New Lands or to the Angara area (including Bratsk) were excluded from the official itinerary, the trip would lose much of its value. Details with respect to mode and timing of travel should be established officially in advance to insure that ample time is allocated for thorough study at the various points. Night travel should be avoided when possible. For example a night flight to Bratsk would be of no value, whereas daylight travel along the Trans-Siberian railroad would be worth a great deal, even if some other part of the trip had to be sacrificed for the sake of time. It is probable that thirty days would not be sufficient for the itinerary proposed and efforts should therefore be made to negotiate an exchange of 45 or 60 days duration.

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